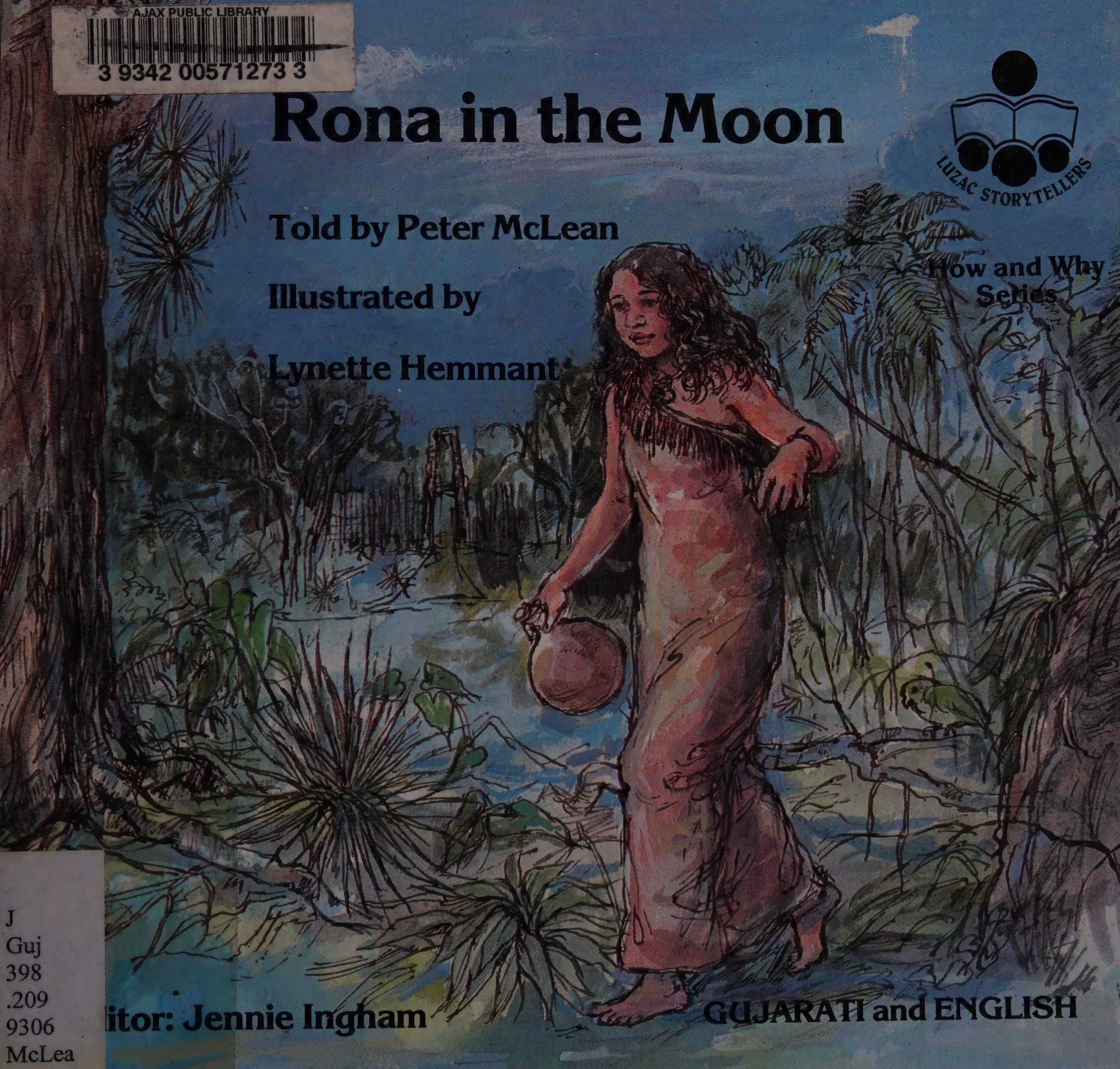
Rona in the Moon

LUZAC STORYTELLERS

Told by Peter McLean

Illustrated by Lynette Hemmant

How and Why Series



[Ed]itor: Jennie Ingham

GUJARATI and ENGLISH

THE STORYTELLER

Peter McLean was born in Te Kuiti, King Country, New Zealand and was bought up in predominantly Maori areas of the North Island. He was a student at Victoria University in Wellington and taught Maori there after graduation. He has lived in East London since 1975.

THE ILLUSTRATOR

Born in London, brought up in South Wales, Australia and England, trained at St Martin's School of Art, Lynette Hemmant has been for many years a freelance illustrator. She now concentrates more on paintings and etching, but gets sidetracked occasionally when an interesting illustration job comes her way.

RONA IN THE MOON

This is only one of several versions of the story which are still told in New Zealand. The story is also a favourite amongst Maoris in Britain. It is typical of those folktales, found throughout the world, which attempt to explain the origin of the markings on the Moon. Peter can no longer recollect when he first heard the story, but thinks it may well have been told by his teacher at primary school.

LUZAC STORYTELLERS

The whole series is based on work that has been done in the Reading Materials for Minority Groups Project (1982-1985), housed at Middlesex Polytechnic and funded by the All Saints Educational Trust. There are over 70 titles in all which will be published over the next few years in dual language form.

All the stories originate from countries where they have been handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth.

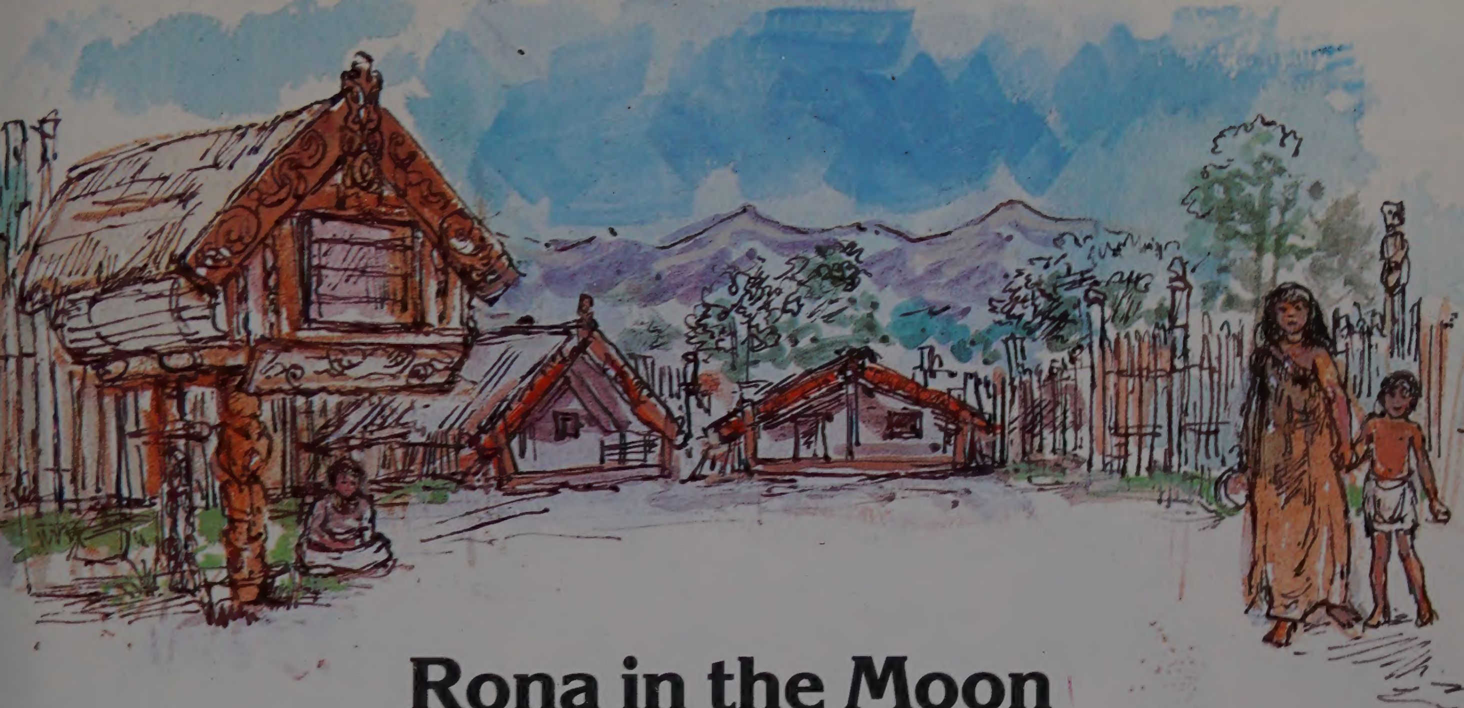
RONA IN THE MOON

Kia mahara Ki te hé o Rona.
Remember Rona's mistake.
Máori proverb

Gujarati version by Niru Desai

ISBN 0 7189 1046 X

Published by Luzac & Co., Ltd.,
46 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PE



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LUZAC STORYTELLERS

HOW AND WHY SERIES





Long ago in New Zealand, before the coming of the Pákehá, there was a Máori woman called Rona, who had three children.

ઘણા સમય પર ન્યુઝીલેન્ડમાં પાકિહા પહેલાં રોના નામંની એક માઓરી સ્ત્રી હતી. તેને ત્રણ બાળકો હતાં.

One day her husband had to be away from home. The reasons aren't very important.





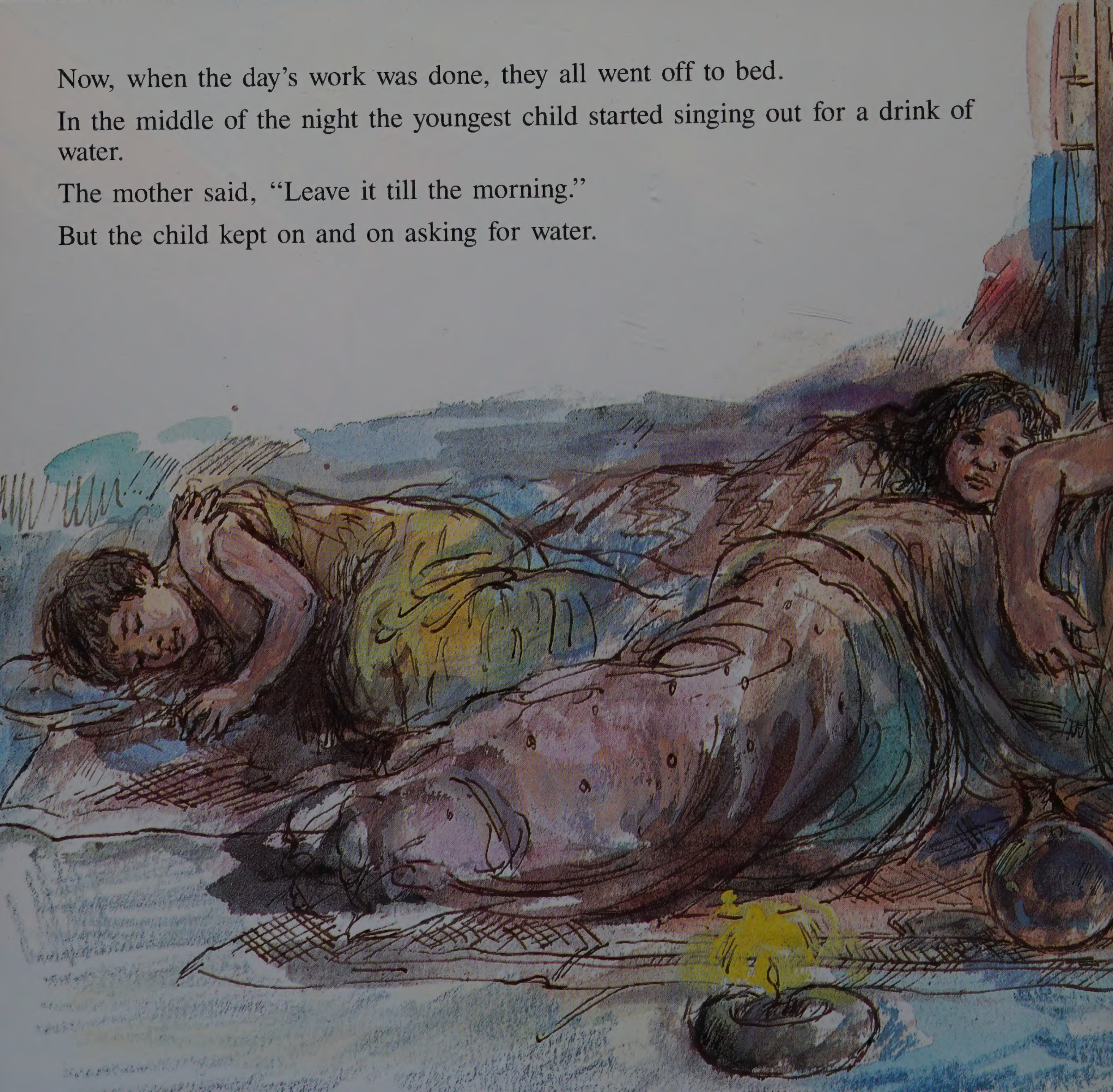
એક વાર તેના પતિને ઘરેથી દૂર જવાનું થયું. કારણો ખાસ અગત્યનાં નથી.

Now, when the day's work was done, they all went off to bed.

In the middle of the night the youngest child started singing out for a drink of water.

The mother said, "Leave it till the morning."

But the child kept on and on asking for water.





આખા દિવસના કામકાજ પછી સહુ સૂવા ગયાં

અર્ધી રાતે સૌથી નાનાં બાળકે પાણી માટે ગાવાનું શરુ કર્યું.

માએ તેને સવાર સુધી થોભી જવા કહયું.

પણ બાળકે તો પાણી માંગવાનું ચાલુ રાખ્યું.

When she couldn't stand it any longer, Rona dragged herself out of bed and set off for the spring.

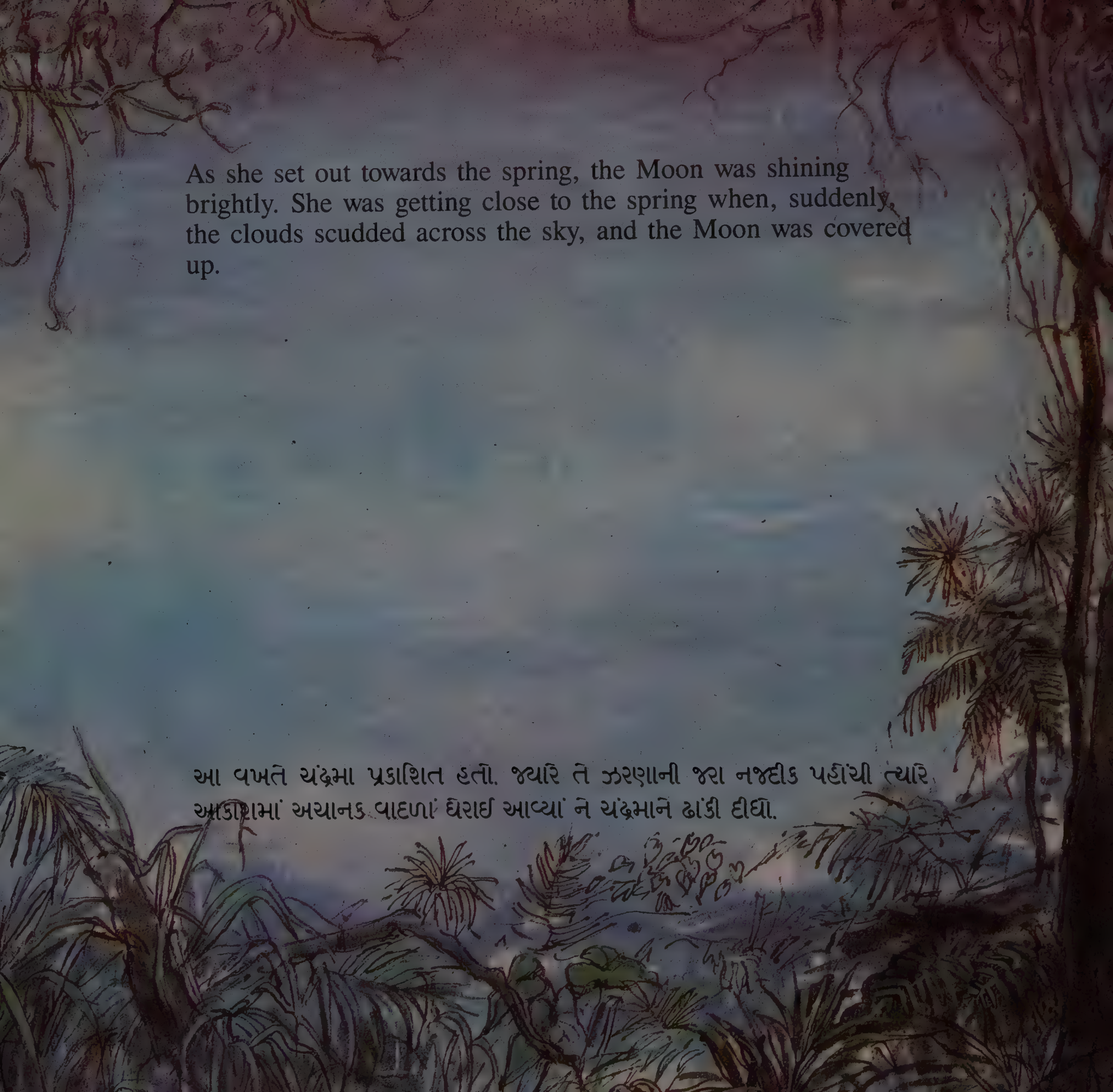
The spring was quite a way from the house. Rona was carrying in her hand a tahá to bring the water back home in.



જ્યારે તેનાથી સહન ન થયું ત્યારે પથારી છોડીને તે ઝરણા માટે નીકળી પડી.

ઝરણું ઘરથી ખાસ્સું દૂર હતું. રોનાએ પાણી ભરવા માટે તેની સાથે ટહા લઈ લીધું હતું.





As she set out towards the spring, the Moon was shining brightly. She was getting close to the spring when, suddenly, the clouds scudded across the sky, and the Moon was covered up.

આ વખતે ચંદ્રમા પ્રકાશિત હતો. જ્યારે તે ઝરણાની જરા નજદીક પહોંચી ત્યારે આકાશમાં અચાનક વાદળાં ઘેરાઈ આવ્યાં ને ચંદ્રમાને ઢાંકી દીધો.







Of course, everything went dark. As she struggled on, she bashed her foot against the roots of a tree.

Cursing and swearing and carrying on, she turned her fury against the Moon. "Why have you stopped shining ? You can see what's going on. Just look at my foot ! The least you could do is to light my way !"

Then she carried on a bit further, and by this time the Moon had come out again.

અલબત્ત બધે અંધારું છવાઈ ગયું. ને જેમતેમ આગળ વધી ત્યાં એક ઝાડના મૂળિયા સાથે એનો પગ અથડાયો.

બડબડ કરતી ને ગાળો દેતી તે આગળ ચાલવા લાગી ને ચંદ્રમા પર બધો ગુસ્સો ઠાલવ્યો. "તું અજવાળું આપતાં કેમ અટકી ગયો? શું થઈ રહયું છે તે તો તું જોઈ શકે છે. મારો પગ તું જરા જો. કમસે કમ મારા રસ્તે તું અજવાળું તો પાથરી શકત!"

પછી એ થોડી આગળ ચાલી. આ દરમ્યાનમાં ચંદ્ર ફરીથી બહાર દેખાયો.

Blow me down, the next minute everything went dark again. Then the same thing happened. She stubbed her foot on another root.



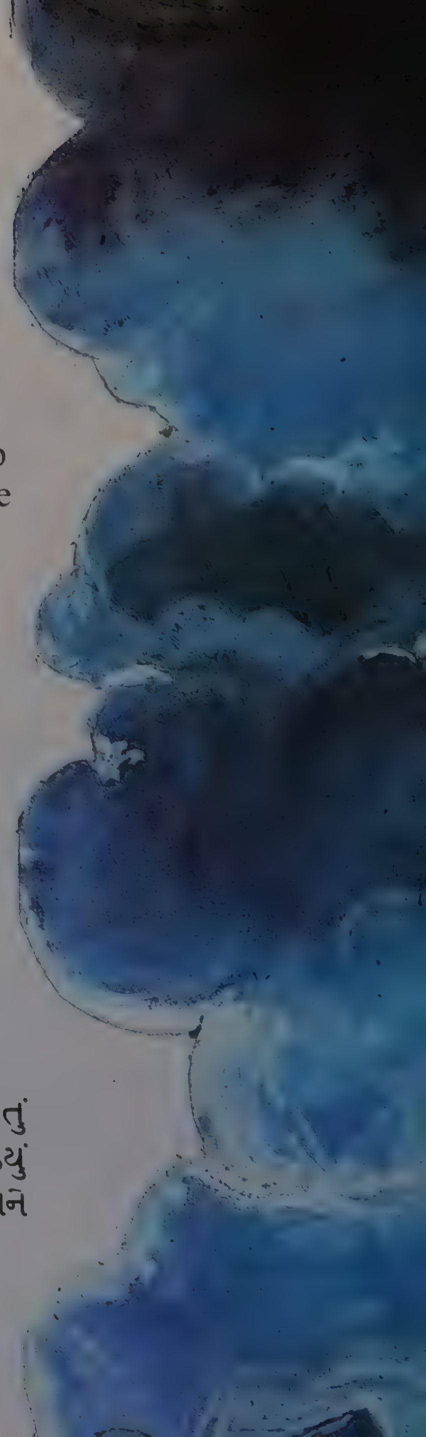
ઓત્તારી! બીજી ક્ષણે અંધારું ઘોર થઈ ગયું. ફરીથી એનું એ થયું. બીજા મૂળિયા સાથે તેનો પગ અથડાયો.

This time she really let rip. She yelled out, cursing the Moon, calling him one of the worst things you can say in the Máori language.



આ વખતે તે ખરેખર ખૂબ જ ગુસ્સે થઇ ગઇ. તેણે ચીસ પાડી, ગાળો દીધી ને માઓરી ભાષામાં ખરાબ શબ્દો ચંદ્રમાને કહયા.

The moon took a little bit of offence at this, and out of the sky his voice came down, “I'd be careful how you speak to me, Rona.” Of course, she was in such a fury, first having to get up in the middle of the night and then bashing her foot on this tree root, that she just carried on cursing.

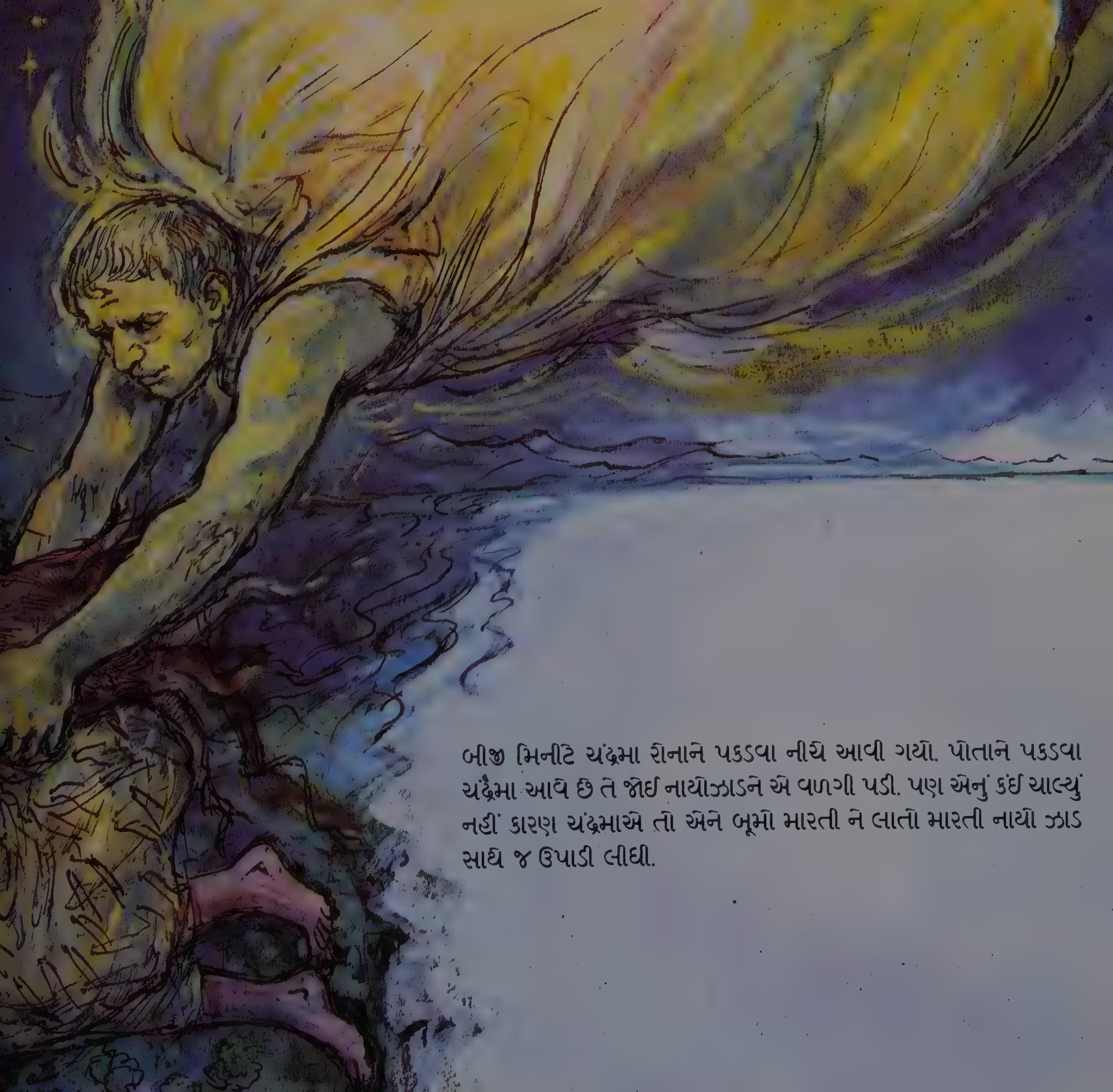


ચંદ્રમાને આથી સહેજ ખોટું લાગ્યું ને આકાશેથી એનો અવાજ નીચે આવ્યો, “રોના, તું સંભાળીને બોલજે.” અલબત્ત એ એટલા ગુસ્સામાં હતી, પહેલાં તો અર્ધીરાતે ઊઠવું પડયું ને પછી પગમાં વાગવાથી કે એણે ગાળો દેવાનું ચાલુ રાખ્યું. ચંદ્રમાએ કહયું, “મેં તને ચેતવણી આપી હતી!” પણ એણે તો એલફેલ, ગમે તેમ બોલવાનું ચાલુ રાખ્યું.

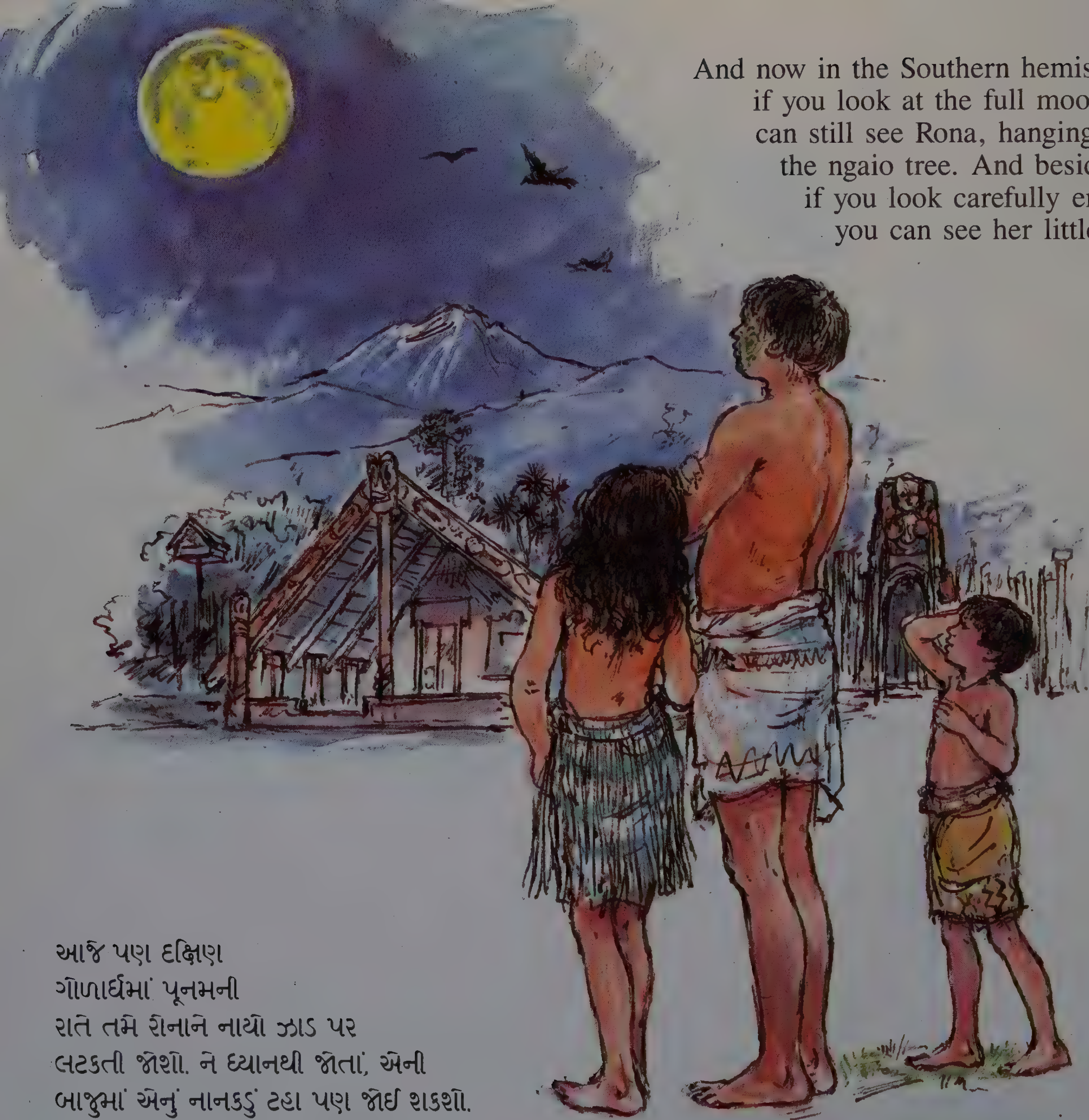


The Moon said: "Well, I did warn you !" but she still carried on saying this thing, that thing and the other thing. The next minute the Moon reached down for Rona. When she saw him coming for her she grabbed onto the ngaio tree. That didn't do her any good at all because the Moon just picked up the ngaio tree with Rona attached to it, and carried her up, yelling and kicking as she went.





બીજી મિનીટે ચંદ્રમા રીનાને પકડવા નીચે આવી ગયો. પોતાને પકડવા ચંદ્રમા આવે છે તે જોઈ નાયોઝાડને એ વળગી પડી. પણ એનું કંઈ ચાલ્યું નહીં કારણ ચંદ્રમાએ તો એને બૂમો મારતી ને લાતો મારતી નાયો ઝાડ સાથે જ ઉપાડી લીધી.



And now in the Southern hemisphere, if you look at the full moon, you can still see Rona, hanging on to the ngaio tree. And beside her, if you look carefully enough, you can see her little taha.

આજે પણ દક્ષિણ ગોળાર્ધમાં પૂનમની રાતે તમે રોનાને નાયો ઝાડ પર લટકતી જોશો. ને ધ્યાનથી જોતાં, એની બાજુમાં એનું નાનકડું ટહા પણ જોઈ શકશો.

GLOSSARY

New Zealand —a former British colony, New Zealand is situated in the South Pacific and has a population of slightly more than three million people. English is the official language

Pakēhā —Pakēhā is the Māori word for people of European descent. The great majority of New Zealand people today are Pakēhā, mainly of British descent

Māori —Māori is the Polynesian language of the native Māori people of New Zealand

Tahā —vessels made from gourds (rind of gourd-fruit emptied and dried), used for storing and transporting food and liquids

Ngaio —(myoporum laetum) a common, primarily coastal tree, which grows to a height of about 30 feet

The Editor and Publishers would like to acknowledge the assistance of:-

Bindu Dave – Gujarati checker
Creative Design Services
Stone Norton Associates – English typesetting
Moody Translation Service – typesetting of other languages
Promotional Print Ltd. of Bath

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